



**Meeting Minutes of Highland District Council**  
**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 7:00 p.m.**  
**1978 Ford Parkway**  
**St. Paul MN 55116**  
**Highland Park Community Center**  
**Email: info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org**

***Building a More Vibrant, Welcoming, and Safe Neighborhood***

**Call to Order:** 7:00pm, Kevin Gallatin, President

**Roll Call:** Mike Lindsay, Acting Secretary

Directors present: Miller, Gallatin, Jossi, Fischbach, Willis, Kolar, Tinnes, Lindsay, Whitehead, Bauer, Long, Hood, Langford

Alternates seated:

Executive Director Carruth

**Approval of Agenda:** Kevin Gallatin, President (7:03PM)

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve February meeting agenda.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** Kevin Gallatin, President (7:05PM)

Motioned made with noted edits, seconded, and passed.

**Public Comment:** Steve Mooney, resident of 1634 Edgecumbe Road (7:07PM)

His property borders the Highland Disc Golf course. He is opposed to the expansion plan for the course from nine holes to eighteen holes. Mr. Mooney noted that no parking signs have been placed on Edgecumbe near the course. He would prefer to see more signs (on each pole) and recognizes a need for better signage at the eighth basket and ninth tee box to prevent golfers from throwing from the incorrect places. Mr. Mooney spoke with Paul Prior of Saint Paul Parks after the most recent Community Development Meeting.

**Executive Committee Report:** Kevin Gallatin, President (7:52PM)

Proposed edits to bylaws section 4.3 Grid Representatives was read for the first time. Proposed edits to bylaws section 4.5 Procedures for Election of Grid Representatives and At-Large Directors was read for the first time. A corresponding grid map is in progress.

A Joint Resolution on Albion Rezoning was motioned and seconded. The resolution was discussed. Community Development did not vote on this matter. Concerns about the developer attaining the required number of signatures and the process that's been followed were voiced. It was noted that this specific development is unusual because Saint Paul Public Schools has to be the applicant. The board recognizes that the process in this case may have been fumbled. The resolution was approved via a voice vote.

A letter from HDC to the president of St. Catherine's University was motioned and seconded. Discussion noted strong neighborhood opposition, that the letter could be interpreted as condescending based on our knowledge of the university's intention, and our need to weigh in based on the level of interest in the neighborhood and that the audience is broader than the university president. Edits on copying the letter to other significant parties on campus were added. The letter passed via a voice vote.

**City Council Update:** Council Member Chris Tolbert (7:15PM)

There's a lot of change at city hall. The new mayor is about a month in. There's also transition on city council as Russ Stark joins Mayor Carter's staff.

CM Tolbert had been library board president and now is transition to chairperson as HRA.

HRA wants to focus on affordable housing. Affordable housing was a common concern during Ford Site living room meetings. The Ford Site went to market at the end of December 2017. Once a national/master developer makes a purchase the next phase will begin for our neighborhood. Ford continues to clean the site. Rumors that they are leaving pollution behind are unfounded. One thing that supports development is Riverview Corridor. A Ford Site study regarding how we can connect the Ford Site to the A-Line and Riverview Corridor is going through the municipal consent process. The south reservoir at the Highland Tower is no longer needed. Proposals were heard at the end of 2017. The water utility wants to hang on the land meaning it can be leased but will not be sold. We are in a good condition compared to water utilities compared to other places in the country. No timeline exists for considering proposals. CM Tolbert believes the city and county proposals that support active open space are valuable. Pedestrian safety efforts continue with sidewalks funded by grants near Expo School. CM Tolbert sits on the transit advisor board and he foresees similar efforts for safe routes to schools in other parts of Saint Paul. Installations of medians along Snelling are expected when construction is allowed based on weather. CM Tolbert addressed questions about the Highway 5 Bridge, funding for the streetcar process, parking at Saint Catherine's University, Dairy Queen, bike/ped infrastructure along the CP rail spur, and a replacement grocery store at Sibley Plaza.

**Standing Committee Reports**

*Transportation: Nate Hood, Chair (8:28pm)*

Community members have been alerted to the sidewalks near Expo School. There will be some tree removal on private property. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

*Community Engagement, Sally Bauer, Chair, and Mike Lindsay, Vice-Chair (8:33pm)*

Paperwork has been submitted for the highland play area. Voting is open for which artist might design part of the public infrastructure. The committee offered content for engagement for the D15 plan. Future meetings will focus on Innovation Fund, Saint Paul Parks, and Great River Passage.

*Community Development, Joe Kolar, Vice-Chair (8:35pm)*

A proposal from Saint Paul Parks was heard about expanding the nine hole disc golf course to eighteen holes was presented at the last meeting and received a lot of neighborhood input. Most were opposed. Highlands Senior Living is making plans for a parking lot and have been given some suggestions on how to better engage the neighbors. The Tropicana is applying for additional licensure that would allow for beer and wine.

**Executive Director Report: Kathy Carruth. Executive Director (8:42pm)**

See attached

**Treasurer's Report: Bob Whitehead, Treasurer (8:56pm)**

The report was approved via voice vote.

**D15 Update: Peter Armstrong, Chair**

D15 was discussed during the executive director report.

**New/Other Business: None**

**Adjourn: Kevin Gallatin, President (8:56pm)**

**Submitted by Mike Lindsay, acting secretary**

**Administrative**

**Peter Myers -Ford Documentary –Fiscal Agency** – we submitted grants to St Paul Foundation, F.R. Bigelow Foundation and a Cultural STAR grant

**2016 COPP Grant for Public Art** – we are waiting for the artist to make a slight modification to the bench, and we will submit to PW for approval. They will fast track and move to a Public Hearing at City Council in Feb (hopefully)

**Lease** –We are still operating under the 2015 lease

**D 15 Steering Committee Update** – there is D15 specific volunteer document on a new tab at the bottom of the HDC Volunteer doc. I sent the link to the Steering Committee in the hopes that someone would sign up –we have received one response for tabling. Items to be done: One page summary, on-line survey, review existing plan for incomplete sections, info boxes on each page of the draft, and then table and gather info at events and focus groups. It seems to have stalled and needs a kick start!

**2017 COPP Funds** –Working with Liz at MGCC on the planning stages of the project –we need to have a joint meeting of the HDC and MGCC to figure out how to decide on a project area, and implement

**CRWD –**

**2017 Review** –Anderson and Baxter has completed most of the review and is scheduled to finish on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>

**2018 City Contract** –I have completed about ¾ and will finish in the next couple of weeks.

**Upcoming Speakers**

March – Libby Kantner and Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission (PCIARC) would like us to work to become a Community Complaint Intake Center (St Paul Comprehensive Plan – Lucy Thompson, PED moved to summer)

**City Contract** – I will be working on the 2018 City contract over the next few weeks

**Travelers Audit** –completed

**HDC Programming**

**Honor Roll** – Turned out very nice –thank you to everyone who attended -Jenny Winkleman, Johnny Allen Jr, and James Farnsworth were our honorees, and they seemed to enjoy the event. City staff had a very low turnout, and CM Brendmoen also noticed and commented –we need a new plan to invite for next year.

**Winter Party** – Friday February 9<sup>th</sup> as part of the Community Recreation nights, not sure if they need us to volunteer or not.

**HIF** –Home Improvement Fair applications are coming in, not very fast –may need to do more outreach, probably after the first of the year. Things are extremely slow, and I have done more outreach, made phone calls and held meetings to get people to come back. We have a few Senior organizations, to put the focus on “remaining in your home”

**Annual Meeting** – the Annual meeting will be at Summit Brewing again on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 -8:30 PM. I have invited CM Tolbert, Western District Commanders, Rep Pinto, and Chief of Police, Todd Axtell –can you think of anyone else? **Do we want to keep the April Board meeting date?\*\*\*\***

**Citywide Drop off event** –we are scheduled to take the lead again in 2018, had a debrief to make some improvements, I filed a permit for Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> –we are confirmed.

**New Resident Welcome** – Bob Whitehead is working with local businesses to find some sponsors to help make sure that this event continues in 2018. We gave him a Donation letter to use while soliciting.

### **Other Projects**

**St Paul Ave/ Cleveland “Pork Chop”** – we found the planters from Ford and Cleveland(they are at the Ford site) Highland Nursery has agreed to plant them, HBA has agreed to water and the County says they can not be placed on the median –we are trying to negotiate.

**Snelling Ave Median Update**- medians are still scheduled for this spring of 2018

**HPCC Play Area** –construction this spring (we hope), it has been put out for bid

**Sibley Plaza** –nothing

**South Highland Reservoir** – Will know more on 2/13 at their next board meeting.

**Riverview Corridor Update** –

**Albion School –J Wedam Foundation** –Working on the rezone from R4 to T3

**Ford Pkwy Work** –we are still working with the County to move the lane merge on west bound Ford past Kenneth, and to remove the arrows by Walgreens and Chipotle,

**Shepard Development (Johnson Brothers)** –no update.

**JCC** –Michael Waldman, ED of the JCC has invited the HDC to tour the new Center, please let me know if you are interested. Also they changed their plans, so a Lot Coverage Variance was not needed, only a CUP –I changed the resolution to read CUP only.

**Tropicana Café/ Agelgil Ethiopian Restaurant** –has applied for a wine and beer license, as well as a Class A license. There was a petition from some neighbors that are opposed which the HDC received anonymously about a month ago. We will be dropping flyers next week for a meeting on Thursday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>

**St Kate’s Parking Lot Project** –Letter to the President, all permits have been issued, no work has started as of 1/31/2018

**\*\*\*Highland Senior Apt –Parking lot project** – the owners have been having parking problems in the neighborhood and have purchased two homes, they are proposing tearing them down and building a parking lot. Neighbors are concerned that they are the only single family homes, and surrounded by parking lots

**Highland Disc Golf Proposed Expansion** – Parks has proposed adding/upgrading the existing disc golf course, they have funds from CM Tolbert’s office to do it. A few neighbors don’t like the idea, too many disc’s flying when you try to walk

**Sidewalks for EXPO/ CDH/Holy Spirit** –had a pre-planning meeting at Transportation in January, I met with PW and Forestry on Tuesday downtown, to make sure they can answer most of the questions at the Community meeting

### **HDC Meetings**

#### **D15 Planning meeting - ????**

**February 1<sup>st</sup>** - HDC Board meeting, HPCC 7:00 PM

**February 9<sup>th</sup>** – HPCC Winter Party 6-8:30 PM

**February 13<sup>th</sup>** – Transportation Meeting, HPCC 7:00 PM – EXPO Sidewalk funding

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** – CDC meeting, HPCC 6:30 PM – Tropicana Café/Agelgil Ethiopian Rest, Albion Development , Tiffany pull tab –waiver of the 45 day wait

**February 27<sup>th</sup>** – CEC Great River Passage, Sub-Committee